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# 0814: C. H. Freeman Collection, 1877-1977

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Marshall University

C. H. Freeman Collection, 1877-1977

Accession Number: 2013/10.0814

Processed By: Emily Ferguson (Boxes 1-3, 2013), Amanda Shaver (Boxes 4-7, 2019)

Date Completed: October 2013, July 2019

Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library

Corporate Name: N/A

Date: 1877-1977

Extent: 7 cubic feet

System of Arrangement: Materials in this collection were organized by the donor and have been kept in the order in which they were received.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Charles Hughes Freeman, known as C. H. Freeman, was born in Niagara Falls, New York on November 11, 1854. Shortly after his father's death in 1857, the remaining Freeman family moved to Michigan, where Charles eventually studied law and was admitted to the Michigan Bar in 1877. He married his first wife, Abby J. Stewart, in 1890 and the couple had a daughter, Sarah Freeman. Abby died in 1898. In 1901, Charles Freeman came to West Virginia to help his client, William C. Yawkey, examine some land Yawkey had recently inherited upon the death of his father. While there, Freeman and Yawkey observed a natural spring that was on fire due to the presence of oil and gas in the ground. Recognizing the potential for natural resource extraction in West Virginia, Yawkey and Freeman quickly set about raising the necessary capital. They went on to form the Yawkey and Freeman Coal Company, the Big Creek Development Company, and other business ventures in order to mine the coal, oil, and natural gas of Boone, Mason, and Lincoln Counties. While living in Hamlin, WV, Freeman met Zubah Ray, a former school teacher. The two married on March 12, 1912 and relocated to Huntington, WV. During the next two years, they built a large house on approximately 250 acres of land just south of the city. The house eventually became known as the Freeman Estate, or Park Hill Farm, and it has since been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Freeman's had three daughters, Ruth, Joan, and Mary, while Zubah had a son from a previous marriage, Aubrey Raymond, born May 10, 1905, whom Charles adopted. Aubrey died March 24, 1923. Charles Hughes Freeman died on July 3, 1920.

Boxes 4-7 of this collection were donated by former U.S. Ambassador Mark Erwin, grandson of C. H. Freeman, in December 2016.<sup>1</sup>

### SCOPE AND CONTENT OF COLLECTION

This collection contains papers related to the estate of Charles Hughes Freeman. C. H. Freeman and his wife, Zubah, had many investments such as the Yawkey and Freeman Coal Company and the Freeman Estates. This collection contains personal materials from the Freeman family, such as contract agreements for property purchases of the Estates, a contour map of what appears to be the Freeman's country residence, and correspondences between Zubah and realtors, as well as some of Zubah's family documents including old letters, registers of visitors from Klingel-Carpenter Mortuary, and Paul and Ricky Ray's basketball documents. The collection contains multiple detailed expense ledgers related to the running of the household between 1911 and 1961. Also housed in the collection are materials related to the Yawkey and Freeman Coal Company, including financial statements, court records and correspondence related to the Big Creek Development Company, and maps related to the coal industry of Lincoln and Boone counties, West Virginia. Much of this material is dated between 1916 and 1965.

#### I. Box 1

- Folder 1: Record Book for Cabell Huntington Hospital Auxiliary
- Folder 2: Register of Visitors, undated Klingel-Carpenter Mortuary
- Folder 3: Register of Visitors, undated Klingel-Carpenter Mortuary
- Folder 4: Register of Visitors, Sept. 2, 1977, Klingel-Carpenter Mortuary
- Folder 5: Register of Visitors, Sept. 2, 1977, Klingel-Carpenter Mortuary
- Folder 6: Register of Visitors, Sept. 3, 1977, Klingel-Carpenter Mortuary
- Folder 7: Register of Visitors, Sept. 4, 1977, Klingel-Carpenter Mortuary
- Folder 8: Register of Visitors, Sept. 4, 1977, Klingel-Carpenter Mortuary
- Folder 9: Book of Notes & Bills
- Folder 10: Weekly Time Book, 1933-44
- Folder 11: Monthly Time Book, May 1917-Nov. 1918
- Folder 12: Time Records for Clerical Committee
- Folder 13: Heritage Village Ribbon
- Folder 14: Zubah Freeman Family Papers
- Folder 15: Photo of Anne Davis Edgar
- Folder 16: Cabell Huntington Hospital Auxiliary
- Folder 17: Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co. Statements of Receipts & Disbursements
- Folder 18: Correspondence on Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co.
- Folder 19: Sigfus Olafson/Zubah Freeman Correspondence
- Folder 20: Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co. Board of Directors Meeting Notices
- Folder 21: Yawkey & Freeman Coal Company

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<sup>1</sup> Information for the Bibliographical section came from the following websites:

<https://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/2016/12/08/former-us-ambassador-donates-papers-grandfather-c-h-freeman-marshall-special-collections/> - about the donation of the collection in 2016,

<http://www.wvculture.org/shpo/nr/pdf/cabell/09000243.pdf> - the application to place the Freeman house on the National Register of Historic Places,

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11045358/aubrey-raymond-freeman> - information on Aubrey's grave,

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11045335/charles-hughes-freeman> - information on C.H. Freeman's grave.

- Folder 22: Contract between W. R. Shore and C. H. Freeman
- Folder 23: Coal Estimates for Landscaping
- Folder 24: Letters from C. L. Watts, Pres. of Watts Realty Co.
- Folder 25: Contract Agreements for Freeman Estates (Watts Realty Co.)
- Folder 26: Property Lease between Mrs. Freeman and Frank Burton
- Folder 27: Freeman House- Specifications
- Folder 28: Miscellaneous
- Folder 29: Ricky Ray, Huntington High School Basketball
- Folder 30: Huntington High School 1958-1959
- Folder 31: Huntington High School Track 1958-1959
- Folder 32: Huntington High School Players' Records (Sheets) 1961
- Folder 33: Recruitment Records 1960-1961
- Folder 34: West Virginia University Games 1961-1962
- Folder 35: Huntington High School Programs 1960-1961
- Folder 36: West Virginia Catholic Basketball Tournament
- Folder 37: Biddy Basketball
- Folder 38: Huntington High School Programs 1959-1960
- Folder 39: Paul M. Ray

II. Box 2

- Folder 1: Correspondence to Mrs. Zubah Freeman from Senders A-G
- Folder 2: Correspondence to Mrs. Zubah Freeman from Senders H-M
- Folder 3: Correspondence to Mrs. Zubah Freeman from Senders N-S
- Folder 4: Correspondence to Mrs. Zubah Freeman from Senders T-Z
- Folder 5: Correspondence to Mrs. Zubah Freeman from Miscellaneous Senders

III. Box 3 (Oversized)  
Contour Map

IV. Box 4

- Yawkey & Freeman and C. H. Freeman Correspondence Copies with index 1911-1914
- C. H. Freeman Check Ledger, Nov. 1910-Nov. 1912
- C. H. Freeman Check Ledger, Nov. 1912-June 1913
- C. H. Freeman Check Ledger, February-June 1914
- Household Expense Ledger with Index, 1912-1918
- Household Expense Ledger, 1922-1931

V. Box 5

- Account Ledger for Trust Estates of Ruth, Joan, and Mary Freeman 1918-1930
- C. H. Freeman Check Ledger, Jan.-Dec. 1915
- Park Hill Farms Check Ledger, Feb. 1915-Feb. 1919 (cashed checks in Box 6, Fld 1)
- Family and Household Expense Ledger, 1944-1961
- C. H. Freeman Correspondence, 1914-1918
- Payment Record, 1955
- Sales Record, 1955

Ledger of Sales, and Expenses, 1938-1954

C. H. Freeman Ledger, 1918, labelled: Business done not shown by check book.

VI. Box 6

Folder 1: Park Hill Farms, Cashed Checks, April 1915-Feb. 1917

Folder 2: Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co., Financial Statements, Stockholder Meeting Report, 1961

Folder 3: Freeman Deposit Slips, 1961-1963

Folder 4: Property map with location of wells in Duval District Lincoln Co, WV

Folder 5: C. H. Freeman, Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co. Correspondence, 1917-1965

Folder 6: Map of Stockton-Lewiston and 5-Block Coal Seams, 1950

Folder 7: Materials Concerning Melville D. Chapman v. William H. Yawkey et. al.

Folder 8: Freeman, Yawkey, Poss, and Leftwich Statements Regarding Big Creek Development Co.

Folder 9: Correspondence regarding Big Creek Development Co. sale, 1916-1917

Folder 10: Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co. Prospecting Reports, Boone Co. WV, 1949-1954

Folder 11: Prospecting Report Map, Boone Co. WV, 1947

Folder 12: Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co. Financial Reports, 1944-46, 1948

Folder 13: Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co. Financial Reports, 1950-1954

Folder 14: Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co. Financial Reports, 1955-1959

Folder 15: Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co. Financial Reports and Statements, 1960-62, 1964

Folder 16: General Manager Reports, Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co.; 1945, 1950, 1961

Folder 17: Secretary and Treasurer Reports, Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co.; 1937-1938

Folder 18: Audit Reports, Yawkey & Freeman Coal Co., 1930, 1936

Folder 19: Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, Notice, and Correspondence; 1954, 1960, 1962

Folder 20: Williamson Co. Texas, Assignment of Oil and Gas Lease, 1941

Folder 21: Lincoln County Yawkey Oil Field Information, copy

"Demand Book"- C. H. Freeman Legal Ledger, 1886-1894, and costs associated with various funeral homes, 1961-1962

Letters with index, 1919-1920

VII. Box 7

C. H. Freeman Journal, financial expenses ledger, Huntington, WV Feb. 1911-Nov. 1915

C. H. Freeman, Journal No. 2, Huntington, WV Nov. 1915-July 1920

Expense ledger, 1911-1920

Household expenses, with index, beginning 1912- apx. 1914

Household expenses, 1932-1943

Unknown Index